



## EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

Jeffrey R. Newton  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Amy Drowne  
*Assistant Superintendent of  
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Kimberly Davis  
*Director of  
Student Services*

Maryanna Stevens, CPA  
*Director of Finance, Marketing,  
and Growth Management*

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the proposed district budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board of Education has met twice in a workshop format to review and discuss next year's proposals, plans and direct needs. The Superintendent's proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Education on Monday, January 25, 2021. Currently, the proposed budget for 2021-2022 reflects a **4.05%** increase over the current fiscal year.

Our budget proposal is based on the following four priorities on which we remain focused:

**Identification and Intervention of Achievement Gaps**  
**Special Education and Student Support Services**  
**Actively Engage Students in Authentic and Relevant Blended Learning Experiences**  
**Maintain Class Size Within Board Guidelines**

These priorities are essential given the challenges all students have endured over the course of the last year. We need to ensure both academic and social/emotional support is provided to all children as we plan and prepare for what we hope to be a normal 2021-2022 school year.

Included in next year's budget proposal are the following additional staffing needs that we feel are most prudent:

**1.0 FTE - High School Social Worker**  
**2.0 FTE - Elementary Math Coaches**  
**1.0 FTE - Middle School Math Coach**  
**2.0 FTE - Additional Grade Two Teachers**

**1.0 FTE - Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant**  
**2.0 FTE - Additional Kindergarten Teachers**  
**6.0 FTE - Additional Paraprofessionals**

These requests and needs will be discussed in further detail at the virtual Board of Education Meeting on January 25, 2021. For a more detailed look at the proposed draft budget summary information, please access the [document here](#).

Additional information and future budget meeting dates will be posted on our district website at [www.eastlymeschools.org](http://www.eastlymeschools.org). Please feel free to share and submit any input or comments on next year's budget to my office at 860.739.3966 ext. 5602 or email at [jeffrey.newton@elpsk12.org](mailto:jeffrey.newton@elpsk12.org). Your feedback is appreciated as we collaboratively prepare for needs in next year's operating budget.

*East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.*



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Following the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget, we will begin to disseminate dates for the town budget meetings and hearings that will take place in March and April, leading up to a referendum in May on the overall town budget.

Thank you for your continuing support of our outstanding school district.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton  
Superintendent

JN:jc